

WATER TRAMPOLINE**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

The invention relates to an exercise or amusement device, more particularly to a water trampoline that floats on water.

2. Description of the Related Art

Referring to Figure 1, a conventional water trampoline includes a rebound member 1 and an inflatable tube 2 in the shape of a doughnut and connected to the rebound member 1. Due to the floatability of the inflatable tube 2 on water, the rebound member 1 can permit tumbling exercises by the user.

Although the conventional water trampoline can permit tumbling exercises and provide water amusement at the same time to the user, it has the following disadvantages:

1. Because the rebound member 1 has a considerable area, the inflatable tube 2 that supports the rebound member 1 has to have a considerable size, such that a relatively large equipment must be used to produce the inflatable tube 2, thereby resulting in high costs.

2. Since the inflatable tube 2 is a hollow unitary body, when a puncture or damage occurs on a peripheral wall of the inflatable tube 2, air slowly leaks out of the inflatable tube 2 such that the conventional water trampoline exposes the user to danger.

3. Even if the damage on the inflatable tube 2 can be repaired, the strength properties of the inflatable tube 2 after repair deteriorate.

4. The rebound member 1 has a large volume such that
5 it is difficult to fold and such that assembly, storage, and transport of the same are relatively inconvenient.

5. Because the inflatable tube 2 has a relative height, it is difficult for the user to climb on top of the rebound member 1. Moreover, if the user applies a pressing force
10 on one side of the inflatable tube 2 when climbing, the other side of the inflatable tube 2 may rise and turn over, thereby rendering the conventional water trampoline dangerous to use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 Therefore, the object of the present invention is to provide a water trampoline that has a plurality of independent floating members, which are replaceable individually, and that is safe to use.

According to this invention, a water trampoline
20 comprises a tumbling unit, a plurality of floating members, and a rope assembly. The tumbling unit includes a bed frame, a tumbling mat, and a plurality of elastic members connecting the tumbling mat to the bed frame. The floating members are connected to and are mounted
25 independently around the bed frame. The rope assembly interconnects the floating members.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

5 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional water trampoline;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of a water trampoline according to the present invention;

10 Figure 3 is a rear perspective view of the preferred embodiment, illustrating how a rope assembly interconnects a plurality of floating members;

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of a bed frame of the preferred embodiment;

15 Figure 5 is a perspective view of a tumbling unit of the preferred embodiment;

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken along line 6-6 of Figure 5;

20 Figure 7 is a view substantially similar to Figure 6, illustrating how first and second curved rods of the bed frame are pivotally interconnected;

Figure 8 is a view substantially similar to Figure 7, illustrating the first and second curved rods of the bed frame in a folded state;

25 Figure 9 is a perspective view of the tumbling unit of the preferred embodiment which is folded into a semi-circular shape; and

Figure 10 is a perspective view of the tumbling unit of the preferred embodiment in a completely folded state.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figures 2 and 3, the preferred embodiment of a water trampoline according to the present invention is shown to comprise a tumbling unit 10, a plurality of inflatable floating members 20, a rope assembly 30, a ladder 40, and an anchor unit 50.

The tumbling unit 10 includes an annular bed frame 11, a tumbling mat 12, and a plurality of elastic members 13 connected between peripheries of the bed frame 11 and the tumbling mat 12.

Referring to Figures 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, the annular bed frame 11 includes first and second curved rods 111, 112 made of metal tubes, and two connectors (A) for pivotally interconnecting the first and second curved rods 111, 112. Each of the first and second curved rods 111, 112 includes two rod sections 115, 116 connected detachably to each other, such as by removably sleeving one into the other and by fastening one to the other through a screw bolt 116'. The connectors (A) include pivot plates 119, each of which has an inverted U-shaped cross-section. Each pivot plate 119 straddles and is fixed to, such as by welding, a respective rod section 115, 116 of the first curved rod 111. Pivot pieces 119' are welded respectively to the rod sections 115, 116 of the second curved rod 112 at the bottom side thereof.

Each pivot plate 119 and each pivot piece 119' have pin holes 117 and 118 for passage of a fixed pin 113 so as to connect pivotally the first and second curved rods 111, 112 (see Figures 4 and 7). Each pivot plate 119 has a pin hole 117' for insertion of a removable pin 114 which passes through a pin hole 118' formed in one end of the adjacent rod section 115 or 116 of the second curved rod 112 so as to connect the first and second curved rods 111, 112 (see Figures 4 and 6). When the removable pin 114 is removed, the first curved rod 111 can be folded over the second curved rod 112 (see Figure 8).

The tumbling mat 12 (see Figures 2 and 5) is made of a high strength woven material, and is rounded so as to complement the shape of the bed frame 11.

The elastic members 13 (see Figures 2 and 5) connect the tumbling mat 12 to the bed frame 11 by connecting fixedly two ends of each elastic member 13 to the periphery of the tumbling mat 12 after folding each elastic member 13 about the first or second curved rod 111 or 112 of the bed frame 11. In this embodiment, the elastic members 13 are elastic woven straps that are spaced apart from each other along the peripheries of the first and second curved rods 111, 112 of the bed frame 11.

In this embodiment, each of the inflatable floating members 20 is made of a ball body that is inflatable

and deflatable. The floating members 20 are mounted independently around the bed frame 11. Through the inflated floating members 20, the tumbling unit 10 can be raised upwardly so as to be apart from a water surface.

5 Each floating member 20 has an upper ear member 21 connected detachably to the bed frame 11 by means of a ring piece 211, and a lower ear member 22 opposite to the upper ear member 21. Each of the upper and lower ear members 21, 22 is formed as a triangular loop.

10 The rope assembly 30 (see Figure 3) interconnects the floating members 20, and includes a ring member 33 disposed below the bed frame 11, a one-piece rope member 31, and a plurality of guide ropes 32. The rope member 31 threads through the lower ear members 22 of the floating members 20 so as to surround the ring member 33 and so as to control and limit the bottom portions of the floating members 20 from moving outwardly. The guide ropes 32 are connected to the ring member 33, and extend outwardly and radially therefrom so as to connect 15 respectively with the lower ear members 22 of the floating members 20 by means of a plurality of fastening members 323, which are connected fixedly and respectively to end portions of the guide ropes 32. The fastening members 323 are hooked respectively to the lower ear members 22 so that the bottom portions of the floating members 20 are interconnected and are 20 restrained by each other.

The ladder 40 (see Figure 2) is attached to one of the floating members 20, and extends from the water surface toward a top portion of the corresponding floating member 20. Two positioning units 42 are mounted fixedly on the top portion of the corresponding floating member 20, and have a structure substantially similar to those of the upper and lower ear members 21, 22. The ladder 40 has two hook members 41, which are attached fixedly to its top end thereof, and which are hooked respectively on the positioning units 42, so that the ladder 40 is suspended from the corresponding floating member 20.

The anchor unit 50 (see Figure 3) is connected to another one of the floating members 20, and is spaced apart from the ladder 40 at an angular distance of 180°. The anchor unit 50 includes an anchor rope 51 connected to the lower ear member 22 of the corresponding floating member 20, and a counterweight piece 52 attached to a bottom end of the anchor rope 51 and submerged in the water.

When the floating members 20 and the bed frame 11 are interconnected through the ring pieces 211 on the upper ear members 21 of the former, the floating members 20 surround the periphery of the tumbling unit 10. Afterwards, the rope member 31 and the guide ropes 32 are connected to the lower ear members 22 of the floating members 20. The tumbling unit 10 is raised by the floating

members 20 to a height higher than the water surface. Subsequently, the ladder 40 is hung on one of the floating members 20 through the hook members 41 and the positioning units 42, and the anchor unit 50 is attached 5 to another one of the floating members 20 opposite to the ladder 40 so as to balance the tumbling unit 10.

In use, after the water trampoline of the present invention floats on the water surface, the user can proceed with tumbling exercises or resting on the 10 tumbling unit 10. The user can use the ladder 40 to get down into the water, or he can jump directly from the tumbling unit 10 into the water, to proceed with swimming and other water games. To return to the tumbling unit 10, the user can easily climb the ladder 40. Even if 15 the user exerts a pressing force on one side of the water trampoline during climbing of the ladder 40, the presence of the anchor unit 50 on the other side of the water trampoline balances the force exerted by the user such that the water trampoline of the present invention is 20 not likely to turn over.

To store the water trampoline of the present invention after use, the user first removes the ladder 40 and the anchor unit 50, and the floating members 20 are then detached one by one from the bed frame 11 and are deflated 25 so as to save storing space. Afterwards, the removable pins 114 are removed from the respective pivot plates 119 so that the second curved rod 112 can rotate relative

to the fixed pins 113 until the second curved rod 112 lies under the first curved rod 111 (see Figure 8). At this time, the tumbling unit 10 is folded into a semi-circular shape (see Figure 9).

5 When the screw bolts 116' are loosened, and the rod sections 115, 116 of the first and second curved rods 111, 112 are separated, the tumbling unit 10 can be folded into a much smaller size, as best shown in Figure 10, thereby facilitating its storage and handling.

10 When use of the water trampoline of the present invention is desired, the rod sections 115, 116 of the first and second curved rods 111, 112 are interconnected using the screw bolts 116', followed by insertion of the removable pins 114 into the pivot plates 119 so as 15 to connect the first and second curved rods 111, 112 so that the bed frame 11 has a fixed shape to support the tumbling mat 12. Afterwards, the floating members 20 are inflated and connected to the bed frame 11, and the rope assembly 30, the ladder 40, and the anchor unit 20 50 are mounted and positioned accordingly. The water trampoline is now ready for use.

Therefore, the water trampoline of the present invention has the following advantages:

1. Each of the floating members 20 is independently 25 mounted to and detached from the bed frame 11 so that the size of each floating member 20 is relatively small. As such, each floating member 20 can be produced using

smaller equipment so that production can proceed with ease at a relatively low cost.

2. Even if any one or up to half of the floating members 20 are punctured or damaged, the water trampoline of 5 the present invention is unlikely to submerge. Moreover, each floating member 20 can be removed individually to serve as a floater or a life-saving tool.

3. Since the size of each floating member 20 is relatively small, when one of the floating members 20 10 is damaged, the damaged floating member 20 can be easily replaced by a new one because the user can prepare many spare floating members 20 beforehand so that the present invention is very safe to use.

4. Even if the floating members 20 have a relative 15 height, the user can use the ladder 40 to climb on top of the tumbling unit 10. For users, which are too old or too young, the ladder 40 further has a supporting function.

5. The bed frame 11 can be folded and unfolded as 20 desired so that assembly, storage, handling, and transport of the same are relatively easy. Moreover, the bed frame 11 has a fixed shape after it is unfolded so that it poses no obstacle during tumbling exercises.

6. When the user climbs up the ladder 40, the anchor 25 unit 50 provides counterweight and balancing effects so that the water trampoline of the present invention is safer to use as compared to the aforesaid conventional

water trampoline.

While the present invention has been described in connection with what is considered the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is understood that this 5 invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment but is intended to cover various arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent arrangements.